



Press Release

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July and October 2012 Farm Labor

For the Mountain I Region of the U.S. (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), there were 29,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of July 8-14, 2012, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Hired workers worked an average of 48.5 hours during the survey week at an average wage of \$9.87 per hour. During the week of October 7-13, 2012, there were 30,000 hired workers on farms and ranches. Hired workers worked an average of 53.6 hours during the survey week at an average wage of \$10.17 per hour.

There were 906,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 8-14, 2012, up nearly 9 percent from a year ago. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 872,000 for the reference week of October 7-13, 2012, up more than 5 percent from the October 2011 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.36 per hour during the July 2012 reference week, up nearly 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.71 per hour, up more than 4 percent, while livestock workers earned \$10.89 per hour compared with \$10.29 a year ago. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.75 per hour, was up 47 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.4 for hired workers during the reference week, down a little over 2 percent from July 2011.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.76 per hour during the October 2012 reference week, up over 5 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$11.22 per hour, up over 6 percent from a year earlier. Livestock workers earned \$10.83, up 16 cents. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.13 per hour, was up 56 cents from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 41.5 for hired workers during the October reference week.

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.nass.usda.gov.